

REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action issued, claims 1 to 7 were pending.

Applicant elects, without traverse, Group II as identified in the Office Action, and restricts the claims accordingly by canceling not-elected claims from consideration.

Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to claim 6, which, as pending, made reference to claim 1 which has now been canceled. Therefore, the reference to claim 1 has been replaced by the subject matter of claim 1 as originally filed in the International application that forms the basis of the present utility application. This is based on the fact that, claim 8 as it appeared in the International application as it was originally filed and which forms the basis for present claim 6, also made reference to the subject matter of originally filed claim 1.

In addition to that, new dependent claims 8 to 23 have been added. Of these, claims 8 to 15 have been made dependent on claim 6, whereas claims 16 to 23 claim the respective same subject matter in dependence of claim 7.

It is recalled, again, that present claim 6 claims subject matter corresponding to claim 8 as it was presented in the original International application. That original claim 8 not only depended on claim 1, but also on claims 2 to 6. However, due to the present restriction, claims 2 to 6 have also been cancelled. Therefore, newly presented claims 8-9, 11-17, 19-23 are presented to cover the subject matter of original claims 8 and 9 when read in dependency of originally filed claims 2 to 6.

Basis for new claims 10 and 18 is found in the original specification on page 14, lines 8 to 12.

Taking into consideration the cancellation of claims 1 to 5 and the addition of new claims 8 to 23, the total number of pending claims is now 18. Only one of these is an independent claim. It is respectfully submitted that no excess claim fee falls due under 37 CFR 1.16(h)-(j).

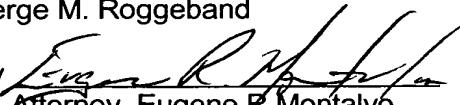
Finally, it is respectfully submitted that the specification has been amended. Support for the amendment is found in original claim 5 of the International application as filed.

Attorney respectfully submits that the specification and elected claims are in a state ready for allowance. In the event the Examiner has any questions or issues regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned prior to the issuance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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